

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11402 100810Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 PA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
DODE-00 /035 W

-----019148 110939Z /11

R 092011Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO USINFO WASHDC
USICA WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
SECSTATE WASHDC 7185

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 11402

USICA

USINFO FOR PGM/RC; PGM/PP; EU; STATE FOR EUR AND AF

E.O. 11652 N/A
SUBJECT: BELGIANMEDIA REATION

BELGIAN MEDIA COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS
REMARKS AS FOLLOWS JUNE 9:

LA LIBRE BELGIQUE WRITES: "MR. CARTER'S SPEECH, WHICH
LEAVES TO THE SOVIETS THE POSSIBILITY OF DETERMINING
THE TYPE OF RELATIONS THEY WISH TO HAVE WITH THE WEST,
HAS THE MERIT OF NOT BLOWING UP BRIDGES, WHILE DISPLAYING
TOWARD THE HEART OF THE MATTER FIRMNESS AND DETERMINATION.2
THE PAPER ALSO DEVOTES ITS ATTENTION TO THE ALLEGED DIF-
FERENCES BETWEEN THE SEVERAL BRANCHES OF THE ADMINISTRA-
TION DEALING WITH FOREIGN POLICY: "JUST AS THE REPUBLICANS
OCCASIONALLY PLAYED ON THE MISUNDERSTANDINGS BETWEEN
MESSRS. KISINGER AND SCHLESINGER, THE DEMOCRATS ARE NOW
STAGING DRAMATIC QUARRELS BETWEEN MESSRS. VANCE AND
BRZEZINSKI. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE IDEAS OF THE TWO
MEN ARE DIVERGING AND CORRESPOND TO DIFFERENT TENDENCIES
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OF PUBLIC OPINION. BUT THOSE CONTRADICTIONS MAKE IT
POSSIBLE FOR MR. CARTER TO PLAY A ROLE OF REFEREE WHICH
HE CERTAINLY DOES NOT DISLIKE. OTHERWISE THE PRESIDENT
OF THE U.S. WOULD ALREADY HAVE GOTTEN RID OF THE MOST
CUMBERSOME ASSISTANT."

LE SOIR WRITES THAT "PRESIDENT CARTER'S LACK OF EXPERIENCE

MADE HIM CONDUCT AN INCREDIBLE ZIG-ZAG POLICY IN HIS
RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS. FROM THE OPTIMISTIC STATE-
MENT OF ONE YEAR AGO AT NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY -- THE U.S.
AND THE U.S.S.R. WERE TO BUILD A BRIDGE OF MUTUAL
CONFIDENCE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES -- TO THE HARDLY
VEILED THREATS OF THE LAST FEW DAYS VIA THE DENUNCIATIONS
ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE JOINT DECLARATION ON THE MIDDLE
EAST, HOT AND COLD HAVE SUCCEEDED EACH OTHER WITHOUT
INTERRUPTION -- AND WITHOUT THE SEMBLANCE OF A FOREIGN
POLICY LINE.... THE WHITE HOUSE IS SURPRISED BY THE
CONFUSION IT CAUSES. IF DIVERGING OPINIONS ARE HEARD, IT
SAYS TO JUSTIFY ITSELF, IT IS BECAUSE MR. CARTER IS
ALLOWING HIS ASSISTANTS A VERY NORMAL FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.
HE LISTENS TO EVERYONE, NEVER FOLLOWS ONE PERSON'S ADVICE
ONLY BUT HEARS EVERYONE, AND ONE MUST WAIT UNTIL HE
DECIDES TO KNOW WHAT IS THE DIRECTION OF AMERICAN POLICY.
MR. CARTER HAS DECIDED IN ANNAPOLIS. AMERICAN POLICY
TOWARDS THE USSR....SHOULD BE BASED ON A SPEECH WHICH HAS
THREE MAIN THEMES: CONCILIATION, COMPARISON, COMPETITION.
THE ONLY PROBLEM, PEOPLE ALREADY SAY, IS THAT RATHER THAN
CHOOSING HIMSELF, HE PROPOSED A CHOICE."ITEM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PRESIDENT, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE11402
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780244-0283
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780678/aaaacpay.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a1ecc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2423353
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BELGIANMEDIA REATION BELGIAN MEDIA COMMENTED ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS REMARKS AS FOLLOWS JUNE 9
TAGS: SOPN, US, BE, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: ICA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a1ecc58c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014